

# Bob Brown Conservation Area 2005 Waterfowl Hunting Outlook

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So far we have had a very good year at Bob Brown. We have had ample rainfall and we have some very good moist soil and row crop foods in our wetland pools. On a negative note we do predict some problems again this fall with pumping. The US Army Corps of Engineers manages the Missouri River through water releases from a system of dams in the upper river basin (Dakotas and Montana). During dry parts of the year (summer/fall) these water releases are used to ensure there is enough water flowing down the river for barge traffic to be feasible from the Mississippi River up to Sioux City, Iowa. When there is enough water in the upper basin reservoirs, these water releases are maintained through late November and early December, to allow for fall barge traffic. During dry years, like 2004, the flows were reduced early in the fall. These flows also maintain a river stage that is high enough, in dry falls, for water to flow into the pump station at Bob Brown. During dry falls we usually lose our ability to pump water within a few days after the reduction of water releases from the reservoirs. If this flow reduction occurs in October again this fall, our availability of water for pumping at Bob Brown may be very limited. The result of this lack of water will be a reduction of waterfowl habitat and hunting opportunity. Please call the area headquarters at Nodaway Valley at 660-446-3371 for more details, or up to date information.

## Early Teal Season Hunting Opportunities

Teal season is September 10-18, 2005. During teal season only, at Bob Brown, there will be no morning drawing, no refuge and no 1:00pm closure. The daily limit is 4 with a possession limit of 8. The shooting times are from sunrise to sunset. There will be some teal hunting opportunity in Pintail Chute, Ring-neck Roost and Sandpiper Flats pools this year. Teal hunters are required to fill out a Hunter Record Card each day. These cards are available in area parking lots.

## Youth Waterfowl Season Hunting Opportunities

The procedures for the Youth season are the same as they have been during the previous few years. During the youth season there will be no morning drawing and no 1:00pm closure daily. No hunting will be allowed in the waterfowl refuge. Pools open for hunting include Pintail Chute, Eagle Aerie, Flat-tail Marsh, and Snipe Slough pools. Youth hunters are required to fill out a Hunter Record Card each day. These cards are available in area parking lots.

## North Zone Waterfowl Season Opportunities

Bob Brown Conservation Area should provide some good waterfowl hunting opportunity again this fall. Waterfowl hunters must attend a morning drawing held at area headquarters each day. The morning drawings are held approximately two (2) hours prior to local shooting time. These drawing are used to allocate the 15 to 19 hunting parties that use the area each day. We will be hunting the same pools as we have in past seasons which include Pintail Chute, Eagle Aerie, Flat-tail Marsh, and Snipe Slough pools. All waterfowl hunting on this area is the wade and shoot style of hunting, most pools have small gravel boat ramps for hunter access. There is a 1:00pm closure each day for waterfowl hunting and there is no hunting allowed in waterfowl refuge. The refuge pools will remain the same as past seasons and include Ring-neck Roost, Sandpiper Flats, and Iowa Point pools.

We are going to try to accommodate as many hunting parties as possible in each hunting pool. As in the past on opening day, water levels will not be at full pool, as we increase acres flooded we will increase hunter opportunity.